

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 10318 162207Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 INR-07 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9182
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10318

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AINF PFOR BR
SUBJ: REPORTED RELEASE OF EMBASSY POLITICAL REPORTS

REF: BRASILIA 10277

1. IN LATER TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY, MAGALHAES LINS STATED THAT "JORNAL DO BRASIL" CLAIMS TO HAVE "TRUNKS FULL" OF DOCUMENTS (TELEGRAMS, AIRGRAMS, MEMORANDA) DATING FROM 1964 TO AT LEAST 1969 (HE COMMENTED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME EXAGGERATION IN NASCIMENTO BRITO'S ALLEGATIONS). MAGALHAES LINS HAS NO IDEA WHERE OR HOW "JORNAL DO BRASIL" MAY HAVE OBTAINED THESE DOCUMENTS BUT HE OBSERVED THAT THE NEWSPAPER NOW HAS A CONNECTION WITH THE NEW YORK "TIMES." HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY THAT PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS MAY INCLUDE NAMES OF NUMEROUS BRAZILIANS WHO WERE SOURCES OF EMBASSY INFORMATION DURING THESE YEARS AND WHO ARE IN POSITIONS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE NOW.

2. MAGALHAES LINS HAS ALSO PROVIDED EMBASSY XEROX COPY OF ONE OF REPORTS HELD BY "JORNAL DO BRASIL." DOCUMENT THAT MAGALHAES PASSED TO US IS AMEMBASSY RIO'S TELEGRAM
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7987 OF FEBRUARY 8, 1967, ON SUBJECT OF COSTA E SILVA'S CABINET SELECTION AND BEARS LARGE STAMP STATING "COPY LYNDEN B. JOHNSON LIBRARY." FROM MARKINGS ON TELEGRAM IT EVIDENT THAT THIS WAS NSC COPY. TELEGRAM, WHICH APPEARS FULLY AUTHENTIC, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AND REPORTS UNIDENTIFIED EMBOFF AS HAVING LEARNED FROM MAGALHAES LINS

THAT MAGALHAES PINTO HAD BEEN SOUNDED OUT BY THEN PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA FOR POSITION AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT DELFIN NETO HAD ACCEPTED POSITION OF FINANCE MINISTER. MESSAGE SUBSEQUENTLY CITES CARLOS CHAGAS, WHO THEN DESCRIBED AS "COSTA E SILVA CONFIDANT" AND WHO NOW BRASILIA BUREAU CHIEF OF ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, AS HAVING TOLD EMBOFF THAT ENTIRE CABINET WOULD BE KNOWN IN ABOUT TEN DAYS.

3. MAGALHAES LINS IS ATTEMPTING THROUGH HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WITH SECURITY SERVICES TO FORESTALL PUBLICATION OF AT LEAST MOST SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS (EMBASSY IS, OF COURSE, PLAYING NO ROLE WHATSOEVER IN THIS EFFORT. MAGALHAES LINS IS AWARE OF THE TOTAL HANDS-OFF POSTURE OF EMBASSY AND COMPLETELY AGREES WITH IT.) HE EXPECTS PUBLICATION OF FIRST DOCUMENTS OVER WEEKEND. RESPONSE TO REFTEL NEEDED ASAP.
CRIMMINS

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